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AXED!

Whitecaps FC Octavio Rivero fights for control of the ball with Jorge Villafana of the Portland Timbers at BC Place Sunday.
JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Whitecaps fall 2-0 to the Timbers in Western Conference semifinal metroSPORTS

City rejects calls for an ombudsman

WATCHDOG

Memo to city councillors argues province has one already

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

The City of Vancouver doesn't think it needs its own ombudsperson to investigate citizens' complaints against the municipal government independently; it's a position that one councillor says won't help ease tensions between people and city hall.

The idea to explore the potential of an ombudsperson's office was unanimously supported by council nearly a year ago. It was a rare show of unity between parties after the municipal election, in which the Non-Partisan Association pledged to create such an office.

But in a memo sent last week, councillors were advised not to pursue the office. The acting deputy city manager argued residents can already complain to the B.C. ombudsperson, so a local ombudsperson would merely duplicate the provincial service that costs $5.6 million annually.

Plus, the memo indicated an ombudsperson would be expensive, noting Montreal spends $1.1 million and Toronto $1.6 million annually to operate their ombudspersons' offices.

NPA Coun. George Affleck was disappointed to see that staff canned the idea.

"I was hoping that we would find a way to make this happen," he said Sunday. "Given the number of lawsuits we have against us, I think an ombudsperson based in Vancouver for Vancouver would be a good idea."

Affleck was referring to more than a dozen lawsuits filed by angry residents against the city over the past few years, many related to developments. He hoped an ombudsperson could lower the temperature on certain issues. Not having one creates a political situation and higher tensions between people and city hall, he said.

But the memo argued a local ombudsperson would be challenging because his or her jurisdiction would overlap with the province.

It also pointed out that of the 7,818 inquires or complaints B.C.'s ombudsperson received in 2014-2015, only 24 were related to the City of Vancouver. Of those, 22 were resolved by the ombudsperson without input from the city, and two were subject to formal investigations.

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metro NEWS

Your essential daily news

Trump's SNL appearance draws celebrity heckler. **World**

IN BRIEF

B.C. NDP leader receives strong vote of confidence

B.C. New Democrats have voted to keep John Horgan as their leader.

A mandatory leadership review took place at the party's convention in Vancouver today.

Ninety-five per cent of the ballots cast supported Horgan's continued leadership.

The vote of confidence means he will officially lead the B.C. New Democrats into the next provincial election, scheduled for 2017.

Horgan told the crowd that his party will set out a bold, ambitious agenda that will attract more voters than ever before. Horgan took over the reins of the provincial NDP from Adrian Dix in 2014. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Murder charges laid after man found on city street

A woman has been charged with second-degree murder in connection with Vancouver's 14th homicide of the year.

Police say a man was found early Friday morning lying on the ground near Station Street and National Avenue, unconscious and covered in blood.

The 31-year-old man — whose name has not been released — was rushed to hospital but died of his injuries.

A suspect, Sadie Taniskishayinew, 23, is in custody charged with second-degree murder and is expected to appear in court on Tuesday to face the allegation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

VICTORY SQUARE
HUNDREDS HONOUR ABORIGINAL VETERANS

A young boy looks on as officials commemorate National Aboriginal Veterans Day at the Victory Square Cenotaph in downtown Vancouver on Sunday. A few hundred people, including aboriginal and Chinese veterans, police officers, politicians and family members, gathered at the cenotaph in honour of the aboriginal veterans who fought for Canada.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Mandatory jail terms under review: Minister

POLITICS

MP confirms move after appeals from B.C. groups

Matt Kieltyka
Metro | Vancouver

Canada's new minister of justice said the Liberal government will review mandatory minimum sentences.

Vancouver Granville MP Jody Wilson-Raybould — a former prosecutor and regional chief appointed minister of justice and attorney general last week — appeared on the national public-affairs show Question Period on CTV on Sunday and confirmed she plans on looking at the controversial sentences brought in under Stephen Harper's Conservative government.

"It's definitely going to be the subject of conversation," Wilson-Raybould told CTV during the interview.

"I recognize the need to empower judges and to uphold the discretion that judges have in particular circumstances."

Last week, Pivot Legal Society and the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs issued a plea for Justin Trudeau's government to repeal sections of the 2012 Safe Streets and Community Act that impose mandatory jail sentences.

Both organizations are intervenors in an upcoming Supreme Court of Canada case in which a B.C. judge refused to impose a mandatory one-year minimum sentence to Vancouver Downtown Eastside resident Joseph Lloyd, convicted of possession for the purpose of trafficking after being arrested with less than 10 grams of heroin, crack cocaine and crystal meth, because it could amount to cruel and unusual punishment.

The federal government appealed, and the case is scheduled to be heard Jan. 13.

Pivot lawyer Adrienne Smith told Metro that mandatory minimum sentences can be disproportionate to the offence and make rehabilitation tougher.

On CTV's Question Period, Wilson-Raybould talked about her experience as a prosecutor at the Vancouver Main Street courthouse and said she saw "an over-representation of indigenous people in the criminal-justice system."

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66% Spike In Recent Foreclosures Plus Aging Baby Boomers Downsizing Creating Discounted Property Frenzy In U.S.

New Real Estate Bonanza

Right now while you are reading this, hedge funds are buying U.S. property in mass. Foreign nationals are loading up on houses as fast as they can. Some savvy individuals are snapping up housing in the U.S. like never before.

In October, *Reuters* reported private investment firm Starwood Capital Group got in the game. They purchased 23,262 mid-rise and garden-style apartments for a whopping $5.37 billion. Other hedge funds are buying entire subdivisions under construction.

The Chinese are the number one overseas investors of U.S. real estate. Often they will buy 10 condos at once, sight unseen.

Does all this investment activity show the U.S. headed for another property bubble? The answer is no.

Demographics are driving demand for rental property to heights unseen in American history. *Bloomberg Business* says rents are only going higher.

The Millennials saddled with student debt, are choosing to rent. Others want to live in cities and avoid long commutes home ownership often demands.

One of the fastest growing demographic segments in the U.S. is those over age 65. Their downsizing activity is flooding the market with discounted property.

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Foreclosures clogged in the U.S. courts are now surging. Those that know how are gaining windfalls of opportunity for flips or portfolio growth.

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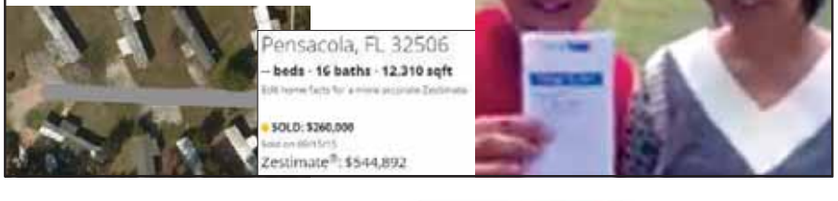

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Pickup trucks drive into Prince George, B.C., on 'The Highway of Tears.' JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Report on Hwy. 16 opens old wounds

GOVERNMENT

Inquiry into missing and murdered women looms

The small B.C. Cheslatta Carrier Nation has a decades-long anguished relationship with Highway 16, or the so-called Highway of Tears.

Five people from the community of fewer than 350 near Burns Lake in central B.C. have disappeared along the route, including an entire family of four, says Chief Corrina Leween.

At least 18 women went missing or were murdered along Highway 16 and the adjacent Highways 97 and 5 since the 1970s.

Most cases remain unsolved, though investigators don't believe a single killer is responsible.

The sorrow deepened recently with a damning report over deleted Transportation Ministry emails about the highway and its missing.

Transportation Minister Todd Stone has said he agrees with the opinions of some locals that a shuttle-bus service along the route isn't practical.

However, the Opposition New Democrats say recently released documents contradict Stone and highlight the concerns of local officials who say a bus service should be considered.

> **"I, as a leader, don't feel the government is doing enough to address the issue.**
> Chief Corrina Leween

The controversy could be swept up in a call by the federal Liberal government for an inquiry into Canada's murdered and missing women. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau promised the inquiry during the election campaign.

"I would expect that because a number of women have gone missing or have been known to have been murdered along Highway 16, that Highway 16 will figure in the national inquiry," said Stone.

"Our government has been on the record for quite some time in supporting a national inquiry."

B.C.'s Attorney General Suzanne Anton said she also expects an inquiry would focus on the highway.

"I'm not trying to second-guess the federal inquiry, but there probably will be an aspect about the north all across the country," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PARTNERSHIP

Telus, Huawei to provide 5G in city

Emily Jackson
Metro | Vancouver

A super-fast, super-efficient mobile network is in the works for the swanky new Telus headquarters in downtown Vancouver.

Telus teamed up with Chinese technology company Huawei to create a "5G Living Lab" at the recently opened Telus Garden.

The partnership was announced when Premier Christy Clark visited Huawei's headquarters in Shenzen last week.

The Living Lab will be an experiment for a converged fibre-wireless network. It's one test in the worldwide attempt to develop a 5G telecommunications network that, when it's eventually built, will provide significantly higher speed and better efficiency for smartphones than 3G, 4G or LTE networks.

In a statement, Huawei said it would make a "significant" investment to design, test and deploy new technologies in the Vancouver building.

Telus recently announced a $1-billion expansion to its fibre-optic network in Vancouver. The goal is to converge this network with wireless networks, according to the statement.

HEALTH

Disease-carrying mosquitoes found in B.C. A species of invasive, disease-carrying mosquito has been found in B.C. — the first such discovery in Western Canada. A team from Simon Fraser University, along with workers at a mosquito-control company, discovered larvae of the aedes japonicus in standing water in Maple Ridge. The mosquito has the potential to transmit several diseases, including West Nile virus, encephalitis and dengue fever. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada begins climate talks

PARIS SUMMIT

McKenna to meet with host of leaders to discuss issues

Canada's new environment minister is in Paris taking part in talks with counterparts from a host of countries to lay the groundwork for this month's global climate-change summit.

Catherine McKenna and her fellow ministers are spending the next three days looking for common ground on key issues in advance of the summit that begins Nov. 30.

Minister of Environment and Climate Change Catherine McKenna is in Paris to help lay the groundwork for the Nov. 30 conference. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Our main goal is to make sure that all human beings can fulfil a healthy, safe, sustainable life."

Environment Minister Catherine McKenna

She'll also have a number of one-on-one meetings, including with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius.

"Canada agrees the science is indisputable and we recognize the need for urgent/greater action that is grounded in robust science," McKenna posted to Twitter on Sunday.

"Our main goal is to make sure that all human beings can fulfil a healthy, safe, sustainable life."

Some 80 leaders will gather in the French capital to try to reach a binding agreement on reducing greenhouse gases.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is expected to be joined there by most of the premiers and at least some of the Opposition party leaders.

The Liberals did not set a target for emissions reductions in their election platform, saying only they would set them informed by economic and scientific analysis.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

AUCTION

Bargains, bureaucracy collide

An airplane formerly belonging to ORNGE, Ontario's air-ambulance system, and thousands of decommissioned law-enforcement vehicles were among the items sold by Canada's Crown asset surplus site over the past year, an analysis of auction sales data shows.

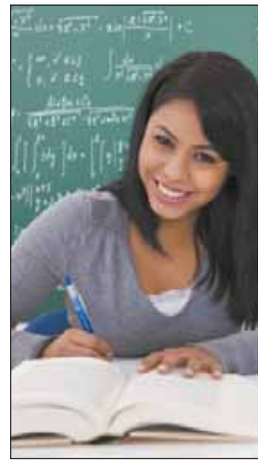
According to the GCSurplus website, roughly 20,000 items were sold between August 2014 and August 2015.

The highest ticket item sold in that period was a 2010 Pilatus PC-12 aircraft that went for $3.12 million in July. The plane, which featured a custom medevac interior, was originally purchased along with nine other aircraft in 2008 at a cost of $4.56 million US per aircraft.

The PC-12 was purchased by Kudlik Aviation, a Quebec City-based company whose corporate affiliate, Kudlik Construction, has numerous building contracts in Nunavut.

Since a 2012 Torstar News Service investigation revealed serious problems at ORNGE — financial and safety related — the agency has been steadily divesting itself of unnecessary vehicles purchased under the governance of ex-CEO Chris Mazza, whose tenure is being looked at in an ongoing RCMP investigation.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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NIELSEN

Trump's SNL episode draws decent ratings

Donald Trump wasn't far into his opening Saturday Night Live monologue before an heckler interrupted with "You're a racist!"

But the "heckler" was comedian Larry David, who before Trump arrived onstage had been seen impersonating Democratic presidential hopeful Bernie Sanders.

"Larry, what are you doing?" Trump asked.

"I heard if I yelled that, they'd give me $5,000," said David with a shrug, echoing an offer made publicly by Deport Racism, a group protesting Trump's appearance. The group said David would receive the $5,000 bounty, regardless of whether or not his comments were a joke.

Only hours after the broadcast, Trump was back on television, saying his performance was "very well received and probably got very good ratings, who knows."

Very good, but not spectacular. Preliminary Nielsen ratings measuring households in 56 U.S. markets gave Saturday's SNL its highest rating only since January 2012.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

Two derailments in as many days in Wisconsin

A Canadian Pacific Railway train carrying crude oil derailed Sunday in Wisconsin.

The eastbound CP train derailed at about 2 p.m. in Watertown in the southeastern part of the state. The railroad said at least 10 cars derailed, and some were leaking. No fires or injuries were reported.

CP was sending teams to the site, and said it takes the incident extremely seriously.

On Saturday, a freight train derailed near Alma in western Wisconsin, spilling thousands of gallons of ethanol.

BNSF Railway said crews continued Sunday to transfer ethanol from the derailed cars and putting them back on the tracks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MYANMAR WAITS FOR ELECTION RESULTS

Supporters of Myanmar opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's party cheer as they watch polling station counts on a giant screen outside the party headquarters in Yangon on Sunday. **For the latest on the election, visit metronews.ca.**

YE MIN AUNG/GETTY IMAGES

Authorities dismiss security concerns

EGYPT

Tourist exodus continues as first Russian inspectors sent

International passengers departing Egypt's Red Sea resort of Sharm el-Sheikh continued lining up for flights Sunday as the first of three Russian inspection teams was dispatched there to examine airport security after the Oct. 31 airline disaster.

The Russian flight's crash in the Sinai Peninsula that killed all 224 people on board continues to generate fallout, after the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility for its downing and U.S. and British officials say intelligence shows it was likely brought down by a bomb on board. Britain and several airlines have stopped normally scheduled flights to the resort, while Russia has suspended all flights to Egypt.

British Foreign Secretary Phillip Hammond told the BBC on Sunday if the bomb is confirmed, it will require a potential rethink of airport security in areas where the extremist group is active.

Russian Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich did not give details on what specific security issues the inspections teams would be examining, but said 11,000 Russians were flown home from Egypt on Saturday and an even larger number were expected to leave Sunday, according to Russian news agencies.

Security officials at the Sharm el-Sheikh airport have told The Associated Press that the facility has long had gaps in security.

A spokesman for Egypt's Aviation Ministry, Mohamed Rahma, dismissed the concerns, saying "Sharm el-Sheikh is one of the safest airports in the world," without elaborating.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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100M facing poverty

WORLD BANK

Poor will bear brunt of climate change impact: Report

Climate change could push more than 100 million people into extreme poverty by 2030 by disrupting agriculture and fueling the spread of malaria and other diseases, the World Bank said in a report Sunday.

Released just weeks ahead of a UN climate summit in Paris, the report highlighted how the impact of global warming is borne unevenly, with the world's poor woefully unprepared to deal with climate shocks such as rising seas or severe droughts.

"They have fewer resources and receive less support from family, community, the financial system," the Washington-based World Bank said.

How to help poor countries deal with climate change is one of the crunch issues in talks on a global climate accord that's supposed to be adopted next month in Paris.

Efforts to protect the poor, such as generally improving access to health care and social safety nets, and targeted measures to upgrade flood defences and deploy more heat-tolerant crops could prevent most of the negative consequences of climate change on poverty, the bank said.

Stephane Hallegatte, one of the authors, said the "hot spots" for climate impacts on poor people were sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chinese workers at a building site in Democratic Republic of Congo. Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are the "hot spots" for climate impacts on poor people. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Migrant labourers protest in Dubai

Hundreds of migrant labourers staged a rare protest near the airport hosting the opening day of the biennial Dubai Airshow on Sunday to demand higher wages.

Associated Press journalists saw the workers gathering and shouting along a road leading to Al Maktoum International at Dubai World Central, the Gulf city's second airport.

Police arrived on the scene soon after the demonstration began and eventually dispersed the crowd.

Workers said they were protesting inadequate pay, though none agreed to give their names for fear of retribution.

In a statement, the Dubai government media office said representatives from the Permanent Committee of Labor Affairs intervened to resolve the dispute. Its investigation found that the workers' demands fell outside of their contractual terms.

"The workers were satisfied with the mediation and ended their demonstration peacefully," the government statement said, adding that the men's employer was instructed "to clearly communicate contractual terms to the workers in order to prevent any future misunderstanding."

The employer for at least some of the workers, Bu Haleeba Contracting, declined to comment.

The United Arab Emirates, of which Dubai is part, and other Gulf Arab nations have come under increasing scrutiny from human-rights and labour activists over their treatment of low-paid migrant workers.

Labour unions are not allowed and strikes are illegal, though protests over working conditions sometimes occur.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

AirBaltic first to operate Bombardier CS300

Latvian carrier airBaltic will be the first client to operate the CS300 aircraft when it takes delivery in the latter part of 2016, aircraft maker Bombardier announced Sunday. The Latvian national airline has 13 firm orders for the CS300 and retains options for seven others, Bombardier said.

In a separate announcement, the Quebec-based company also said the flight test program for the CS100 aircraft was "close to 100 per cent complete."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. gas prices stop falling

The average price of gasoline rose a penny over the past two weeks, to $2.25 US a gallon. Industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said the slight increase comes after prices previously fell 63 cents over 19 weeks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Buzz control: To curb invasive, disease-spreading mosquitoes, L.A. scientists will release males infected with bacteria that make females infertile — which could backfire, causing other bugs to surge.

JOHN HONDERICH

No one can dispute the tradition of an individual publisher or owner calling the election shots for their local paper. But to dictate the choice across an entire chain — and nation — is an entirely different tale.

Never before in a federal election, in my memory, have newspaper endorsements become so controversial.

Topping the list unquestionably was Postmedia CEO Paul Godfrey's dramatic order to all 16 major Postmedia papers across Canada to support Stephen Harper.

Each paper was allowed to write its own editorial, but the conclusion was preordained.

"Since God made babies, I think (endorsement editorials) were always made that way," longtime Conservative Godfrey explained later, reacting to the uproar. "If anyone thinks otherwise, I think they were dreaming in Technicolor."

Really, Mr. Godfrey?

You might want to examine the policies of other newspaper chains that tell an entirely different bedtime story of the so-called "proprietor's prerogative."

No one can dispute the tradition of an individual publisher or owner calling the election shots for their local paper. Godfrey did that regularly when he was publisher of the Toronto Sun.

Even more worrisome is the negative impact this affair is having on the newspaper industry in general. At a time when the relevance and impact of newspapers are under attack, this doesn't help.

But to dictate the choice across an entire chain —and nation. That is an entirely different tale.

Consider the previous owners of Postmedia papers, the venerable Southam family.

Postmedia, which owns the Ottawa Citizen, the National Post and the Sun chain of papers, ordered its major publications to endorse the Conservative Party in last month's federal election. JUSTIN TANG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

It went to great lengths to emphasize individual publishers in each city were responsible for all editorial content, including election endorsements. "It was even in my letter of engagement," remembers veteran Southam publisher Clark Davey.

"It said what appeared in the (Vancouver) Sun rested on my conscience."

The reason, of course, was self-evident. What was important or relevant to readers in Vancouver might not be so in Montreal, Ottawa or Windsor.

Owning a newspaper, in my view, is a privilege, not a right. Nor is it the same as owning a pizzeria or car wash. Newspapers are an essential informing part of the democratic process and their first responsibility must be to the local readers they serve.

The old Thomson chain in Canada, owned by the richest family in the land, had a similar practice of non-interference in local editorial issues.

South of the border a similar tradition has existed for decades. In the last presidential election, America was a patchwork quilt of competing newspaper endorsements.

The huge Gannett chain states that "Diversity is strength. By encouraging and expressing a mix of opinions, backgrounds, stories and ideas, Gannett improves results."

An executive for the large Knight-Ridder chain put it more pithily. "We bought them (newspapers). But we don't own them."

In the interests of transparency, it must also be declared that editorial independence has always been the official policy of the Torstar newspaper group.

While the proprietors and publisher of the Toronto Star are involved in the Star's election endorsements, the Hamilton Spectator, Waterloo Record and all 125 of Torstar's community papers can decide for themselves.

So in the 2011 federal election, The Star supported Jack Layton's NDP, while virtually all other Torstar papers endorsed Stephen Harper. In 2015, all the dailies came out for the Liberals under Justin Trudeau.

These aren't dreams. They are black and white realities reflecting a long-held common tradition among North America's major newspaper groups.

Mr. Godfrey, soon to be installed in the Canadian News Hall of Fame for his contribution to Canadian journalism, clearly has a different perspective.

Yet, the firestorm of criticism on social media, the rumours of discontent in Postmedia newsrooms and even a damning story in Britain's Guardian newspaper all reflect a pervasive discontent.

Even more worrisome is the negative impact this affair is having on the newspaper industry in general. At a time when the relevance and impact of newspapers are under attack, this doesn't help.

Ultimately, though, it is readers who matter most. And surely those in Postmedia communities deserved far, far better.

John Honderich is a former publisher of the Toronto Star. He is chair of Torstar's board of directors.

Let's focus on high housing prices, not the ethnicity of buyers

CITY HOLLER
Trish Kelly

Andy Yan, architect and author of a new study on Vancouver's housing market, is a truth bomber. The case study he has constructed examining how the money exodus from mainland China is showing up in Vancouver home sales is potentially explosive. Mayor Gregor Robertson told reporters he's worried about the racist undertones to the study. And I can see why.

Yan's study is not racist, but it could be fodder for Canadians willing to blame any ethnicity for our housing crisis. Yan's study assumes non-Anglicized Chinese names listed on real-estate purchases are likely those of Mainland Chinese buyers.

Yan responded to comments from the mayor and other critics, saying, "The fact of the matter is that a lot of them (critics) tend to be white, (and they are) using cries of racism in an attempt to shut down the discussion — a civilized, educated discussion — on real estate."

Though Yan wants to inspire a reasonable, civilized conversation about how Chinese buyers may be contributing to the demise of affordable housing in Vancouver, let's not forget that this conversation is happening in Canada. This country is home to a legacy of institutionalized racism that saw aboriginal children forced into residential schools. This is the same Canada that interned Canadian residents of Japanese descent during the Second World War in case they decided to become insurgents for a country they had never been to.

Today's temporary foreign workers program reaps cheap labour for jobs Canadians with anglicized names won't do.

Our history aside, today's temporary foreign workers program reaps cheap labour for jobs Canadians with anglicized names won't do. Even today, our provincial government sits back while B.C. aboriginal children in foster care die in isolated hotel rooms away from their communities.

Our government has a terrible history of using policy to reinforce racism, so I understand our mayor getting nervous when anyone paints a picture that could incite racist scapegoating.

As a country and as a province, we are not doing what is needed to protect our housing stock from a global market where money flees one country for a different safe haven. Let's focus on that, not on the ethnicity of this year's batch of buyers.

Trish Kelly lives and writes in East Vancouver. Follow her @trishkellyc

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Let's hear it for the liberal arts

ANALYSIS

Justin Trudeau's arts education is part of his political appeal

Devon Scoble
Metro | Canada

Stephen Harper warned that Justin Trudeau — an English literature grad and former teacher — wasn't ready to be Prime Minister, but a Statistics Canada study released in April showed nearly a third of young humanities graduates are actually overqualified for their jobs.

Overall, humanities grads earn less money and — according to a study by the Canadian Scholarship Trust Plan, or CST — less respect than their STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) contemporaries. In terms of both status and wealth, only fine arts majors bring in less.

Despite this, humanities subjects like English, history, philosophy and music remain a vibrant part of campus life, and the second-most popular majors at Canadian colleges and universities. (Business, management and public administration are most popular.) The humanities were once considered the cornerstone of education, and encouraging them is essential, says Martha Turner, VP of Marketing for the CST. Not only because they create well-rounded graduates, but also because the future market demands a broad skill set.

"With a global economy emerging, you have to be able to work with teams all over the world," says Turner. "Empathy and teamwork are skills you could arguably learn in any discipline, but particularly in the humanities."

Justin Trudeau isn't your average humanities grad, and his climb to Canada's top post was fuelled as much by personal ambition, political connections, and — let's be real here — a fortuitous surname, as his appreciation for literature.

But now that he's scored the job, the skills he cultivated in his undergrad will be useful, says University of Toronto English Professor and novelist Robert McGill.

When I hear Justin Trudeau talking about his prioritization of listening to other people, I can't help but think that reading literature will have fostered his abilities in that regard.
University of Toronto English prof Robert McGill

"A lot of people talk about what they call his emotional intelligence, and when I hear that, I think about the skill of sympathetic imagination," says McGill. "That's the term literary critics use to talk about an ability to enter into the life of another person with rigour and compassion."

Researchers at The New School in New York City found that studying literary fiction improves a reader's capacity to empathize with others. The study, published in the October 2013 issue of Science, asked people to read fiction, literary fiction, nonfiction and nothing, then take a test where they were asked to infer other people's emotions. When participants read fiction and literary fiction, they scored significantly better on the tests.

"Novels are rather unique in getting us to listen to and identify with the lives of others and when I hear Justin Trudeau talking about his prioritization of listening to other people, I can't help but think that reading literature will have fostered his abilities in that regard," says McGill.

"And I think that aspect of him is part of his political appeal," he adds.

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SPEND LESS TO BE MERRY

Don't be budget naughty or your new year won't be so nice

Gail Vaz-Oxlade
For Metro Canada

I was at dinner with friends last week when the topic turned to Christmas dinner. They always have me over and this year it's going to be on Dec. 27 because, with grown kids, carving out Christmas is less about the date and more about the time spent together. It takes a plan to work all the family dynamics into the holiday season.

Some people also find it challenging to get through their shopping without blowing their budgets or their minds. It's doesn't have to be hard. But you do have to exercise some discipline as you whip out your wallet and pay, pay, pay.

The easiest way to stay on track is to make a list. If your heart is bigger than your wallet, go over your list and decide who doesn't really need to be on there? Are there people to whom can you give a token gift to celebrate the season? Can you use Secret Santa so you don't have to buy for your whole brood?

The very best gifts don't have to cost a penny. Offer up your time babysitting, cooking meals, house cleaning, massaging, sewing, knitting, transporting, or whatever else you're good at. Clip a picture of the service you'll provide and be clear on how often, as in "I'll babysit one weekend a month from February to June." Or better yet, make your own coupon book.

MAKE THIS A RULE
No self-gift while you're shopping. If you see something you really like, put it on your own list for Santa.

Retailers count on your oohs and ahhs while you're out shopping for your lovies so make this rule: No self-gift while you're shopping. The one-for-you-one-for-me approach to holiday shopping is just an excuse to be self-indulgent. And it's a sure way to end up with a holiday hangover. If you see something you really like, put it on your own list for Santa.

Want to remove the temptation to over-shop? Shop with cash. So many people who whip out their plastic end up spending more than they planned and then get stuck paying the minimum payments. At 18 per cent interest, $500 in holiday spending would take seven years to pay off and cost $365 in interest. Ouch! As for opening up a new store credit cards to get that 10 per cent or 20 per cent off your purchase for the day, don't do it. Retailers must be making a packet on interest and late fees in order to offer those special deals. And if you're the sucker who ends up carrying a balance, you'll spend far more in interest than you saved on purchases. And, yes, opening and closing store cards can mess with your credit score.

Avoid the crash after the holiday rush by planning ahead and buying what you can afford. ISTOCK

> **Before tossing anything into your shopping cart ask yourself why are you buying it**

Before tossing anything into your shopping cart ask yourself why you are buying it. Are you just fulfilling your duty to give a gift? Are you showing off? Are you trying to keep up? Or are you giving something you can afford and that your friend, sister, son or partner will truly enjoy receiving?

Your mom, dad or BFF aren't going to be happier that you put yourself in financial stress rather than giving them something that might be slightly less and within your means, if they really love you. If they are judging you on your pressie, then they don't really love you and you shouldn't be buying them anything!

For more money advice, visit Gail's website at gailvaz-oxlade.com

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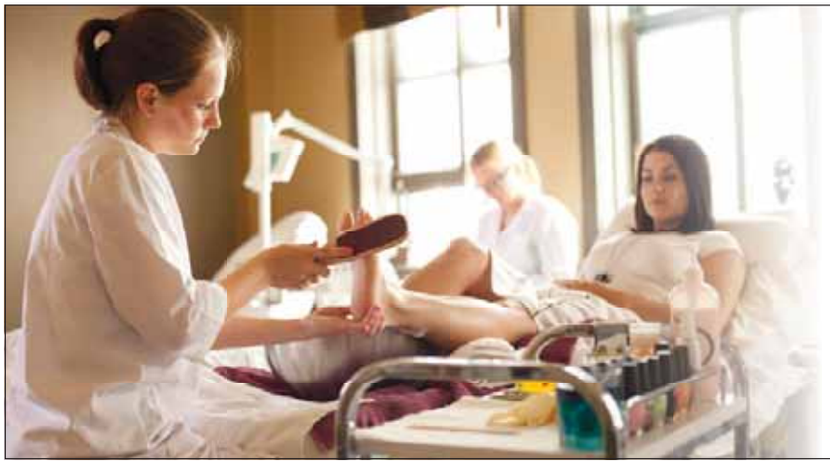

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Inside the world's fastest bike

INNOVATION

The team's bike, Eta, hit a top speed of 139.45 km/h

University of Toronto engineering grads and members of the Canadian firm Aerovelo designed a bike that broke the world speed record. COURTESY AEROVELO

It shot across a remote stretch of highway in Nevada like a white bullet. And it was only propelled by one man's legs.

Encased in a white carbon fibre shell, a speed bike designed by the Canadian engineering firm Aerovelo smashed the world record for the fastest human-powered vehicle at an international competition. Its top speed was 139.45 kilometres per hour.

They set the record on a high-altitude, enclosed 8-kilometre strip of road at the World Human Powered Speed Challenge in Battle Mountain, Nev. in mid-September.

Jun Nogami, an engineering professor at University of Toronto and the chief timekeeper at the event, was one of the few people in the audience that morning.

"Everybody was shocked except for Aerovelo because they are convinced they can go faster," he said.

"It was a strange feeling to be celebrating in the middle of the desert in Nevada and nobody else knowing what we're celebrating."

They beat the previous record, 133.78 km/h, by a little more than 4 km/h. They then eclipsed their own time twice over the next two days.

The bike owes its speed to its sleek design and its rider, Todd Reichert, a 33 year-old U of T grad and co-founder of Aerovelo, who was once a national-level speed skater.

To reduce drag, the bike has a pair of front-facing cameras and screens for the driver.

"It feels a bit like a video game," Reichert said in an interview from California, where he is for work.

And like any game, it takes practice. "The first time going over 100 in our testing, I thought 'Holy crap, this feels fast!'

"To me now, 100 km/h feels slow," he added, with a laugh.

The bike's oval-shaped shell makes it 100 times more aerodynamic than even the most streamlined cars, according to its builders.

The wheels are 26 inches, like those on Olympic racing bikes, but they are covered to reduce drag.

Not for nothing, Aerovelo named their bike "Eta" after the Greek letter often used to symbolize efficiency in equations.

They began work on the bike in 2013, the same year they won a $250,000 prize for designing a human-powered helicopter that can hover three metres for at least a minute.

Aerovelo grew out of a partnership between Reichert and fellow U of T grad Cameron Robertson while they were both members of the university's Human-Powered Vehicle Design Team.

Reichert already has his eyes on breaking their own record next year. Their next goal is 88 miles per hour (141.2 km/h) "because that's the speed of a human-powered time machine," he joked, referring to the velocity of Doc's Delorean in Back to the Future.

"We're a bunch of nerds here, ok?" TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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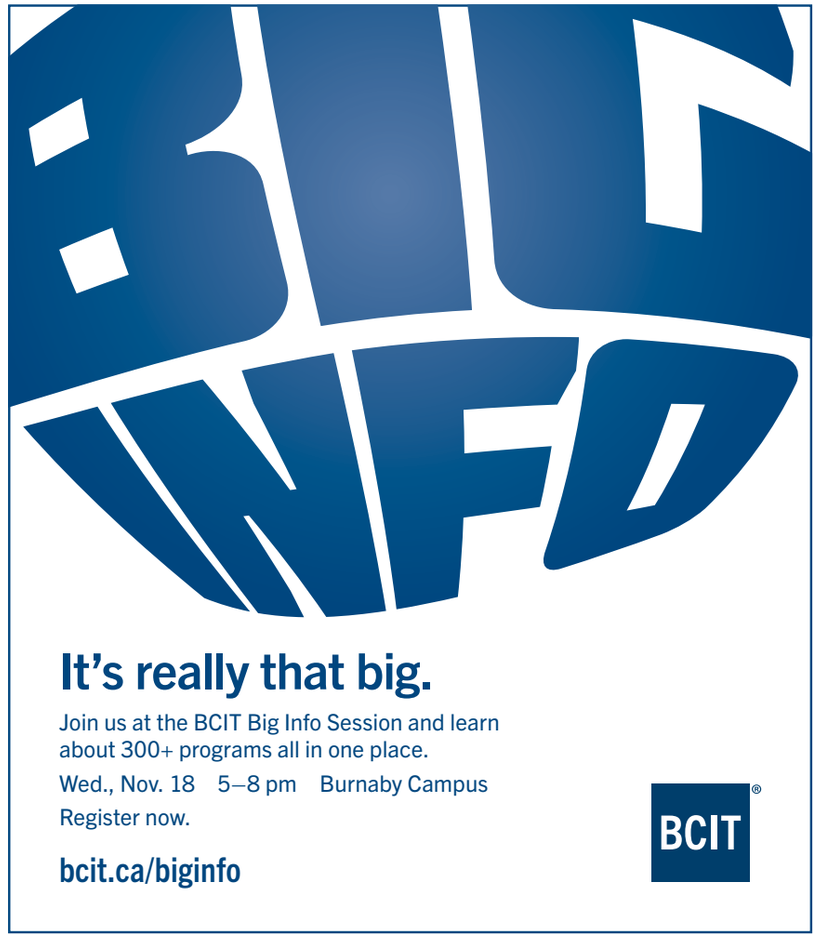
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WHAT I'M WATCHING VEEP: SEASON 3, EPISODE NINE (HBO CANADA)

An instant comedy classic that should be taught in acting and writing classes

Johanna Schneller
For Metro Canada

The Washroom

U.S. Vice-President Selena Meyer (Julia Louis-Dreyfus) has just found out that all her manic, petty machinations have worked: The president is resigning and she's stepping into his job.

She and her faithful aide Gary (Tony Hale) duck into a women's washroom. Gary is so overcome that he gets a nosebleed. Her attempts to help him are typically inept, and the two wind up slumped against a wall, weeping with laughter.

Not only is this scene an instant comedy classic that should be taught in acting and writing classes until the end of time, it also made me realize why seasons two and three of Veep worked brilliantly, while season two of the Netflix series House of Cards did not, though it told a similar story (a U.S. congressman played by Kevin Spacey schemes to become president).

It's because Veep always keeps the stakes small.

Even after Selina takes over the Oval Office, her crises remain absurd. She gets a terrible haircut. She frets when Air Force One doesn't take off on time, or her running mate upstages her.

Veep keeps sharpening its sword, showing us how pathetic ambition looks, especially when no manipulation or slight is too small to be used or avenged later.

The ridiculousness of high-level double-dealing applied to things that don't matter made both series addictive at first.

But in House of Cards, the stakes got too high too fast. When the future of the free world hangs in the balance, all fun is leeched away.

Fiona Fu stars in OMNI's Blood and Water, a crime drama produced in Mandarin, Cantonese and English. HANDOUT

Multilingual drama reflects demographics

BLOOD AND WATER

Vancouver show features Cantonese, Mandarin

In OMNI's original crime drama Blood and Water, which debuted Sunday, Vancouver has never looked more exotic. At least from the lens of television.

The victim in the show is Asian. The lead detective in the show is Asian. Her boss is Asian. Virtually all the protagonists, apart from Toronto actor Peter Outerbridge, are Asian.

If you've lived in Vancouver, which has a substantial Chinese-Canadian presence, hearing Mandarin on the street isn't unusual. And the hypothetical situation of seeing an Asian cop and an Asian police lieutenant isn't far-fetched.

But we have become so used to TV reflecting another reality, it becomes jarring even though it shouldn't be.

Blood and Water is the Canadian broadcaster's first original crime drama produced in Mandarin, Cantonese and English. It is not a salve to the long-term problems in the industry, but it is a significant first step.

The eight-part drama written by Al Kratina and Dan Trotta, and directed by John L'Ecuyer, is visually stunning. Too bad the storyline doesn't match the exquisite imagery.

Someone is missing in a seaside town. Family members are in despair. There is an investigation. The crusty cop is played by Canadian Australian actress Steph Song. Like David Tennant's character in Broadchurch, Detective Jo Bradley is humanized through the spectre of illness.

In the premiere episode, after Jo is given a cancer diagnosis, she ends up getting the file of a complex homicide. The troubled drug-addicted son of a prominent developer has turned up dead and everyone, including family members, is a suspect.

Song's restrained, cerebral performance is fine and compelling.

But the show is a slow boil to nowhere. It's neither an action-cop flick nor is it particularly interesting drama.

Mandarin and Cantonese scenes are subtitled but, apart from the language, there is very little cultural specificity. This could be any family, in any situation. And perhaps that's the point. How unusual is it, seeing Asian characters act like any other character you might see on a crime show?

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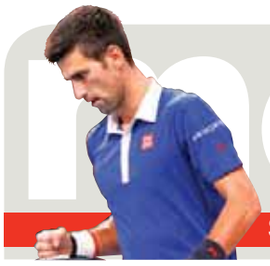

Serbia's Novak Djokovic beat Britain's Andy Murray 6-2, 6-4 to secure his 10th title of the year at the Paris Masters final

Vancouver's Alexandre Burrows, right, and New Jersey's Andy Greene collide on the boards. MEL EVANS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Canucks lose third straight in Jersey

The New Jersey Devils lost 32 overtime games over the past two seasons, more than any other team in the Eastern Conference. Things have gone a little better this season.

Kyle Palmieri scored on the power play with 1:27 left in overtime and the Devils endured a rally by the Vancouver Canucks for a 4-3 victory on Sunday night.

SUNDAY in New Jersey

4	3
DEVILS	CANUCKS

"It was nice to make one count there in the end," Mike Cammalleri said.

The Canucks made it 3-3 with consecutive goals by Alexander Edler and Sven Baertschi 2:07 apart in the second period, with Baertschi tying it with 5:54 left.

Between those goals, fights broke out pitting Derek Dorsett against Jordin Tootoo and Jake Virtanen against Bobby Farnham.

Keith Kinkaid made 28 saves, and Cammalleri, Adam Henrique and Sergey Kalinin also scored for New Jersey.

Ryan Miller made 24 saves, Chris Higgins also scored and Vancouver lost its third straight.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL SUNDAY

Blackhawks 4, Oilers 2
Stars 4, Red Wings 1
Bruins 2, Islanders 1

So long, Whitecaps

MLS

Portland Timbers put end to season

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

The Vancouver Whitecaps are out of the MLS Cup playoffs, as their difficulty scoring goals these past several weeks finally caught up to them.

After playing to a scoreless draw in the first leg of the Western Conference semifinal in Portland on Nov. 1, the Whitecaps lost outright to the Timbers by a final score of 2-0 before a charged up crowd of 27,837 fans at BC Place Stadium on Sunday.

The Whitecaps, playing their first-ever home playoff match as an MLS club, needed goals. Those didn't come. They needed to be spotless defensively. One mistake in that area proved fatal to their 2015 season. And against Cascadia Cup rivals from Portland, the Vancouver side fell.

Fanendo Adi scored the decisive goal for Portland, which entered the match needing only a win or a draw greater than 0-0 – based on the away goal tiebreaker – to advance to the Western Conference final versus FC Dallas.

From a simple throw-in, the Timbers managed to expose some soft Vancouver defending, as Adi found space between centre backs Tim Parker and Kendall Waston to deliver a perfect shot that goalkeeper David Ousted had little to no chance of stopping.

Just like that.

Suddenly, the Whitecaps were forced into a massive uphill climb. It proved to be too much. They just couldn't score and, outside of the opening 20 minutes, didn't really look overly dangerous in the attacking third.

Vancouver's speedy midfielder Kekuta Manneh had an instant impact on the game. He just missed the far post in the sixth minute, and then hit the post a few minutes later. It was a promising sign so early, but it quickly faded.

Manneh left the game just 26 minutes into the first half, hobbled by an apparent injury that occurred as he went to turn sharply near the Portland box. He was gutted as he walked to the bench. Coach Carl Robinson and teammates tried to console Manneh, as he buried his head in his hands.

Portland Timbers goalkeeper Adam Larsen Kwarasey stops a shot from the Vancouver Whitecaps FC. JONATHAN HEYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

SUNDAY at BC Place

2	0
TIMBERS	WHITECAPS

ALSO IN MLS

Columbus tops Montreal
Columbus Crew SC star striker Kei Kamara scored in extra time Sunday to end the Montreal Impact's remarkable MLS season. Columbus won 3-1 on the night and 4-3 victory on aggregate in the Eastern Conference semifinal. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Lions will 'do damage' in playoffs, says Phillips

CFL

Defensive back finishes tied top in league with 6 interceptions

Cam Tucker
Metro | Vancouver

In the football world, Father Time has yet to intercept B.C. Lions' veteran defensive back Ryan Phillips.

At 32 years of age, Phillips finished this 2015 season in a three-way tie for top spot in the Canadian Football League for most interceptions, with six, including three in his final two regular-season games. He was scratched from the Leos' lineup for Saturday's finale, eliminating the chance for him to earn the lucky seventh pick and stand alone in that defensive category.

"That's what you work hard for," said Phillips last week of his recent surge. "I just want to put my team in a position to win, and that comes with making plays, and that's what guys expect me to do."

The Leos' recent success on defence — forget Saturday's loss to the Calgary Stampeders, given B.C. had numerous starters, including Phillips, sitting out — is because of a combination of factors. The play of the defensive line has improved. The play of the secondary is improved. And, of course, B.C. has linebacker and vaunted tackler Adam Bighill, who received the team's nomination for outstanding player and outstanding defensive player.

Now, they'll go up against a Calgary Stampeders team — defending Grey Cup champs — that was second in the league in points for, and first in the league in points from the offence, efficient in both the run and pass.

The Lions enter the post-season with a 7-11 record but with a seemingly more renewed sense of confidence in most aspects of their game. Despite an underwhelming record, and a West Division powerhouse opponent in the semifinal, Phillips is optimistic. "The best has still yet to come for us," he said.

"I expect us to do damage. I understand some teams might not have us on the radar, but … we know what we're capable of."

RESULTS

Friday
Argonauts 21, Bombers 11
Saturday
Redblacks 44, Ticats 28
Stampeders 28, Lions 7
Sunday
Roughriders 30, Als 24

The Lions' Ryan Phillips is very confident heading into the playoffs. DEREK LEUNG/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Raptors unable to take Heat as Miami runs riot

Chris Bosh scored 23 points, Hassan Whiteside added 20 points and 11 rebounds, and the Miami Heat rolled in the second half to beat the Toronto Raptors 96-76 on Sunday.

Dwyane Wade scored 12 and Tyler Johnson added 10 for Miami, which outscored the Raptors 30-16 in the third and then put the game away with an 18-3 run in the fourth.

Jonas Valanciunas scored 17 for Toronto, which got 16 from DeMar DeRozan and 15 from Kyle Lowry. The Raptors lost for the 11th time in their last 12 trips to Miami.

Bosh has appeared against his former team for the 12th time. The Heat are 12-0 in those games, and Bosh lauded the play again of Miami's second unit — a clear strength for the Heat so far this season. "I just like how hard they're playing," Bosh said. "They're scrapping. And that's what it's about."

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RECIPE Broccoli and Cheese Soup

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

With its immunity boosting garlic and antioxidant-rich broccoli, please meet your family's anti-cold and flu season soup.

Ready in
Prep time: 10 minutes
Cook time: 35 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 4 cups broccoli florets and stem (just cut off the toughest bit at the end) chopped fairly
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 cups chopped, peeled potato
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 glug olive oil
- 4 cups low sodium vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup grated cheddar
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan
- Salt and pepper to taste

Directions
1. Sautee onion and garlic in a dutch oven or other large, heavy-bottomed pot for about 5 minutes until soft.
2. Add vegetables and stock and allow to simmer for about 20 minutes until the vegetables are tender.
3. In small batches, ladle the broth and vegetables into your blender and puree. Pour each batch into a bowl as you go. Pour the puree back into your pot.
4. Over medium heat add milk and cheese and stir until the cheese melts. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve with crusty bread.

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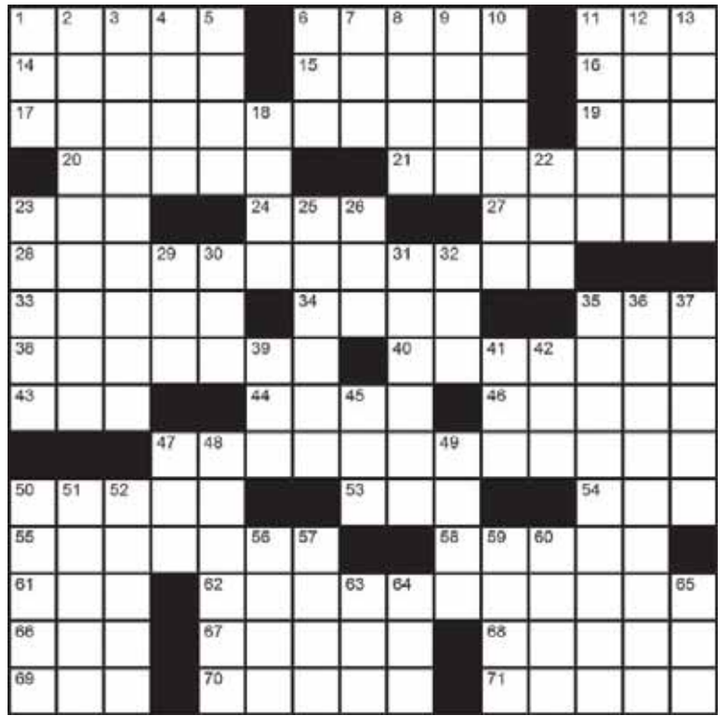
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Lyricist, _ Hammerstein II
6. Roman hearth goddess
11. Neutral tone
14. Donald Trump's second wife Ms. Maples
15. Canadian retail family
16. Gingery qulp
17. Restaurant buffet covering
19. Hawaiian dish
20. "How I Met Your Mother" narrator Bob
21. Honking
23. Approx.
24. Grand _ (Wine classification)
27. Bellow from a fellow on the seas!
28. Andrew _ (Host of #62-Across who is from St. John's, Newfoundland)
33. Filles _ _ (French for 'King's Daughters' as per the young women King Louis XIV sponsored to settle in New France)
34. _ a soul
35. _ culpa!
38. History Channel's "_ _ Truckers"
40. Winning: 3 wds.
43. '_' _ for Excellence
44. Duck variety
46. Grease again
47. Igloo construction materials: 3 wds.
50. Plentiful purchasing period
53. Cartoon-style shriek!
54. Shortened path
55. "Love in the Time of _" (2007) starring Javier Bardem
58. "Murphy Brown" house painter
61. Mr. Orbison
62. Discovery Channel series, "Canada's _ _"
66. Time-saver's abbr.
67. Flying-over-Quebec plane
68. "Look at all the _ _ picked!" (Exclamation heard in an orchard)
69. Heartache
70. Bread ingredient
71. Norwegian ...in Norwegian

DOWN
1. Meditation syllables
2. French for 'without worry': 2 wds.
3. Planet inhabitants
4. Shake _ _ (Hurry)
5. Bulldoze
6. Eggplant, e.g.
7. H2O: French
8. Pierce
9. Split
10. Of a South American mountain chain
11. Fleshy-snouted animal
12. Beside
13. Barnyard noise
18. Engrave
22. Phone's 'pen' pal
23. Singer Ms. Gorme
25. "It's Like That" rappers
26. Can. neighbour
29. And not
30. Acqua Di _ (Armani fragrance)
31. Check out the merchandise
32. Ms. Rand
35. "Breakfast at Tiffany's" (1961) song: 2 wds.
36. Robert Stack's character on 1959 to 1963 crime series "The Untouchables": 2 wds.
37. "_ _ are saying is give peace a chance." - John Lennon
39. Volcano in Japan, Mount _
41. Hound's howdy!
42. Home [abbr.]
45. _ Crater, in Maui in Hawaii
47. "The Fresh Prince of _-Air"
48. Allowance
49. Sanctioned, cute-style
50. Twisted-in fastener
51. Camera's creation
52. Rolls-_ Motor Cars
56. Drift
57. Soprano's time to shine
59. Scientology founder, _. _ Hubbard
60. "The Flintstones" pet
63. HELP!
64. Tunnel creation need
65. Canadian rocker Mr. Emmett

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS by Sally Brompton

Aries March 21 - April 20
Don't get uptight if someone you deal with refuses to see sense today. You may have more than enough evidence to convince them that they are wrong but some people can be ridiculously stubborn. Let it go.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
If someone offers to help you out, think carefully before taking them up on the offer. There will be strings attached and you could end up paying more than expected.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Limit the number of things you work on as the new week begins. You may be eager to make an impression but don't let your enthusiasm get the better of you. There's no rush.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Try not to dwell on your mistakes. What happens over the next few days, especially when the moon in new on Wednesday, will help you make a success of your endeavors.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Chances are you will refuse to see any point of view but your own today and that could put a friendship at risk. Try to understand that what is right for you may not be right for someone else.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
Adjust your aims and ambitions as events over which you have no control throw you off course. It might be annoying in the short-term but in the long-term it will be good for you.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You seem to be finding it harder than usual to believe in yourself. Reconsider plans that you made to travel or socialize because you really need to spend some time by yourself now.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Something you thought you could cope with will get completely out of control. Get help from people who know what they are doing. Clearly, you do not!

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
One-to-one relationships are about to go through a rather delicate phase but the good news is it won't last for long and nothing bad will come of it. The approaching new moon means you need to feel more and think less.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
You will find yourself under a lot of pressure as the new week begins. You are going to have to stand up for yourself and let people know that you will not be taken advantage of.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Something of a creative nature that you have been working on will hit a wall today or tomorrow and you may be tempted to give up on it. That would be a big mistake.

Pisces Feb. 20 - March 20
You may not be the life and soul of the party at the moment but give it time. The approaching new moon is already making you feel more adventurous and come Wednesday you will be your happy, upbeat self again.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

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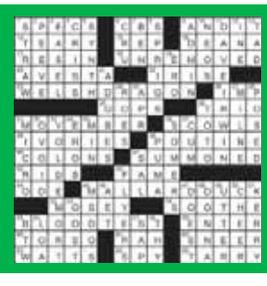

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1	9	7	5	6	2	3	8	4

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